

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : The Central Government allocates rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oil, kerosene and soft/CIL coke to States/UTs at fixed Central Issue Prices (CIP) for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS). The end retail prices of these commodities are fixed by the States/UTs themselves after taking into account various overheads like transportation/handling charges, local levies/taxes, dealers margin etc. except in the case of sugar where the uniform end retail price of Rs.9.05 per kg. all over the country is fixed by the Central Government. The Central Government does not maintain the details of fair price shop level prices in statutory rationing areas.

Colliery Accidents

2385. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.1052 on July 29,1994 regarding colliery accidents and state:

(a) whether the Court of Enquiry appointed by his Ministry in respect of the mine accidents that occurred on 25 January, 1994 at New Kenda Colliery of E.C.L. has been completed the enquiry;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in completing the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The Court of Inquiry could not initiate proceedings for a considerable period due to a stay order granted by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court. The stay was vacated in Sept. 1995. Since then, the Court of Inquiry has started investigation. The report has not been submitted so far. The term of the Court of Inquiry is presently extended upto 24.10.96.

Satellite TV Network

2386. SHRI PRASARAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the districts in the country have been brought under satellite television relay net-work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be brought under this net-work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IRBAHIM) : (a) to (d). Satellite derived TV services are already available through out the country with the use of an appropriate dish antenna.

Branch Post Offices in Assam

2387. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branch Post Offices opened during each of the last three years in Assam, location wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more branch Post Offices in the State during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of Branch Post offices opened during the last three years in Assam, location-wise is given in the Statement attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 2 Branch Post Offices are proposed to be opened during 1996-97.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

STATEMENT

Branch Post Offices opened in Assam during the last three years location-wise.

S.No.	Year	Name of Branch post offices in Assam
1	2	3
1.	1993-94	1. Uzankuri 2. Chamatapathar 3. Bamunkata 4. Lafakuchi 5. Digorkhal Bazar 6. Alexanarpur 7. Bagbari 8. Manigipur 9. Borshijhora 10. Kakormary 11. Kachadal 12. Ambari 13. Padmeralaga Pt.-II, 14. Rangajuli 15. Barbil-Kachari 16. Telisal 17. Bajarchiga

1	2	3
		18. Danichapori
		19. Harkpathar
		20. Dighali-Debera
		21. Kharkati
		22. Rangalipathar
		23. Gellapukhuri
		24. Dilaji
		25. Burhachaporigaon
		26. Kachadhara-Nakhandra
2. 1994-95	:	Nil
3. 1995-96	:	Nil

Consumer Complaints and Redressal System

2388. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of the consumer organisations at their meeting with him had stressed the need to strengthen the consumer complaint and redressal system especially at the State level; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exploration of Granite

2389. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have undertaken any investigation into the granite wealth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for exploration of granite as export product?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Granite being a minor mineral, the concerned State Governments are responsible for the exploitation of reserves besides, exploration activity. However, in view of the importance assured by this mineral, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has take up intensive resource survey of about 39,065 Sq.km. area of Granite deposits in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal since 1994. The detailed coverage in different states is as per statement enclosed.

(c) Govt. of India has constituted a body named 'Granite Development Council' which includes members from Central Govt. and its Organisations, State Governments, Industry associations as private entrepreneurs to address the issues relating to development of Granite industry.

STATEMENT

Geological Survey of India has taken up Intensive Resource Survey of Granite in the Country since 1994 as under :-

Name of State	Area covered in Sq.Km.
1. Andhra Pradesh	12,000
2. Assam	80
3. Bihar	645
4. Gujarat	750
5. Haryana	105
6. Karnataka	3,950
7. Kerala	1,000
8. Madhya Pradesh	1,350
9. Maharashtra	1,950
10. Meghalaya	205
11. Orissa	1,200
12. Rajasthan	11,000
13. Tamil Nadu	2,050
14. Uttar Pradesh	1,700
15. West Bengal	1,080
Total	39,065

Sugar Stock

2390. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantity of sugar exists surplus in the country at present;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity thereof;

(c) the quantity of sugar released for free sale recently, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the Government's present thinking about the export of this commodity?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The estimated stock of sugar with the factories as on 30.6.1996 was 113.20 lakh tonnes.

(c) A Statement giving Statewise release of freesale sugar for the month of August, 1996 is enclosed.